

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Marketing Quotas Proposed For All Farm Commodities

The same general principles under which the federal government supports farm prices of basic commodities—by guaranteeing prices to growers who adhere to marketing quotas and acreage allotments—would be extended to cover all nonbasic agricultural commodities (except sugar beets and sugarcane), under H. R. 7955, introduced March 31 by Representative Pace (Ga.).

The bill would supplement existing law, which provides price support for nonbasic commodities subject to the availability of funds, by giving the Secretary of Agriculture means of controlling production and marketings within limits calculated to equalize supply and demand.

Section 301 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which was enacted in October, 1949, during the first session of the 81st Congress, authorizes the Secre-

(Please turn to page 144)

Food Plant Sanitation Courses Scheduled by N.C.A.

Training courses in food plant sanitation will be conducted by the staff of the N.C.A.'s Western Branch Laboratory in Salem, Ore., April 24-28, and in San Francisco, May 8-12.

Recognition will be given to production problems so that the sanitation program can be administered with a minimum of cost and conflict. The plan is to give instruction to persons at about the superintendent's level, as well as to anyone else who is capable of maintaining and continuously improving sanitary conditions in canneries.

Each course will include: Requirements of state and federal agencies, plant cleanup, water supply, waste disposal, plant and equipment construction, plant lighting, product contamination by insects and rodents, sanitary facilities, and inspection techniques.

Application blanks and detailed information are available from the National Canners Association, 461 Market St., San Francisco 5, Calif.

Canning Industry's Beginnings To Be Dramatized on NBC Network May 2

The DuPont Company's "Cavalcade of America" radio program has scheduled a dramatization of the hardships of the pioneer canner, William Underwood, for Tuesday evening, May 2, over the 152 radio stations of the National Broadcasting Company.

For 15 years the DuPont "Cavalcade of America" program has been interpreting the individual opportunity which America affords by dramatizing historical incidents and personalities. On Tuesday, May 2, the "Cavalcade" has scheduled a dramatization of interesting incidents in William Underwood's life and his canning experiences of a hundred years ago and more.

At the end of the broadcast, it is brought out that from the early struggles such as Underwood's has developed the important and extensive public service which the present-day canning industry gives the American people.

Local papers of May 2 will confirm the exact times of the broadcast in each locality:

Eastern Time Zone 8 p.m. Local Time
Central Time Zone 7 p.m. Local Time
Mountain Time Zone 9:30 p.m. Local Time
Pacific Time Zone 8:30 p.m. Local Time

Tolerance Hearings Recess; Sets of Summaries Available

The Food and Drug hearings on pesticide tolerances have been recessed until April 24. All of the experimental evidence on insects and diseases attacking fruit and vegetable crops and the need for use of chemicals for their control has now been presented by scientists from federal and state experiment stations. Such testimony has been presented by horticulturists, entomologists, and pathologists. Evidence still to be presented under Part A will be given by witnesses from the chemical industry and interested organizations.

Testimony presented at the hearings has been summarized weekly in the

(Please turn to page 145)

School Lunch Program Expands During First Half of 1949

More than a half-billion meals were served to nearly 8,000,000 school children under the National School Lunch Program through December of the current fiscal year, it is reported by the Production and Marketing Administration, USDA.

PMA reports the number of meals served in 52,800 participating schools at 522,000,000. The average number of children served as of December, 1949, was 7,943,000, an increase of 14.1 percent over the preceding year.

Much of the food served under the program was produced and purchased in the localities where it was used, PMA states. Certain commodities, however, were purchased by USDA with School Lunch funds to meet specific nutritional requirements.

During the six months ending December 31, 1949, these foods amounted to 70,525,000 pounds, and included canned tomatoes, tomato paste, canned peaches, and concentrated orange juice.

In addition, schools received free of charge during the same period 167,971,000 pounds of surplus commodities.

During 1950—a period not covered by PMA's report—PMA has purchased quantities of canned sweet corn, green snap beans, peaches, apricots, and plums for the School Lunch program.

INSECTICIDES

Food and Drug Pesticide Tolerance Hearings

Following is a summary, prepared by Association Counsel and staff, of the proceedings at the FDA hearing on insecticide tolerances from April 3 through April 7, 1950:

Representatives of various interested associations and societies presented testimony at the FDA Insecticide Tolerance Hearings during the period April 3-7.

Their testimony was more concerned with policy than with details, but its central theme was similar in nature to that of previous witnesses. All but one witness said that the use of insecticides is necessary in order to insure successful fruit and vegetable production.

Dr. J. T. Sanders, legislative counsel of The National Grange, said that insecticides are required for use whenever they are required for profitable production.

Dr. H. D. Brown, professor of horticulture at Ohio State University and secretary of the Vegetable Growers Association of America, introduced a survey showing some of the chemicals used by growers in vegetable production. He emphasized that the survey was not meant to be all inclusive and the fact that a chemical was not listed did not mean that it was not necessary. The only insecticide which the Association does not recommend for use is BHC because experience has indicated that BHC imparts an off-flavor to the vegetables upon which it is used.

Truman Nold, of the National Apple Institute, praised the soundness of the hearing proceedings to date and warned against adoption of tolerance regulations which were unnecessarily stringent. He said growers still remember the harsh arsenic tolerances as first issued and the economic dislocation that they caused before reasonable adjustments were made. Repetition of such hasty and unsatisfactory regulations is not desirable.

Russell Smith, legislative secretary of the National Farmers Union, said that the tolerances should be reasonable and ample notice given to all growers as to their contents.

Fred W. Burrows, assistant secretary of the International Apple Association, gave a statement pertaining particularly to apple and pear growers but also of general interest to all fruit growers. He introduced an exhibit showing that apples and pears, particularly the late harvesting varieties, cannot be grown without the use of chemicals. He said that 60 different chemicals are used to control 50 different insects and 20 diseases. This variety of chemicals must be available to the grower so that he can use a flexible program to meet his ever

changing insect and plant disease problems.

Porter R. Taylor of the American Farm Bureau Federation said that effective spray materials are essential to the economical production of fruits and vegetables. Establishment of proper tolerances is necessary if the grower is to sell his production and remain in business.

Dr. Walter Carter, head of the department of entomology of the Pineapple Research Institute, gave a detailed statement on the insect problems of pineapple growers. He said that chemicals are used as soil fumigants and as plant hormones to control insects and weeds. Without control of the mealybug and the disease it causes, mealybug wilt, pineapple production in Hawaii is impossible. Present control measures include the use of 4 pounds of actual DDT in the form of either wettable powder or emulsion immediately after the field is planted followed by 3 sprays of 2 pounds DDT at monthly intervals. Methoxychlor, lindane and chlordane are being tested for interchangeable use with the DDT so as to avoid excessive use of any one compound and to avoid the possibility of the development of resistant insect strains. Cleanup sprays with 25 percent wettable parathion powder in 200-500 gallons of water have proved to be very effective. Other phosphatic insecticides such as EPN and two systemic insecticides, octamethylpyrophosphoramide and diethylparambrophenylphosphate, are being tested for use against the mealybug.

Chloropierin, D-D mixture, Dofume, ethylene dibromide and ethylene chlorobromide are used for soil fumigation purposes but because of their volatility and infrequent application, no adverse effect is thought to result. Acetylene, ethylene, alpha naphthalene acetic acid and various other plant hormones are used to regulate ripening dates of the pineapple and to cause fruit enlargement but in such small quantities that again no danger to consumers is thought to result.

Concerning residues, Dr. Carter said that DDT is not used within 3 months of harvest and parathion within 30 days of harvest and in neither case is there thought to be a harmful residue problem. He introduced an exhibit showing that no DDT has ever been found in the pineapple flesh, and in only one case was parathion found on the shell a month after very heavy applications. During cross-examination, Dr. Carter said that the clarification process would probably remove any insecticide which might be in the pineapple juice, but at the same time, he emphasized that no insecticide has ever been found in the juice.

Edwin Gould, representing the National Peach Council, made a brief statement accentuating the need for insecticides in order to insure successful commercial peach production. He said that the Kearneysville, W. Va., Experiment Station recommended the use of BHC only early in the peach growing season so as not to have it cause off-flavor in the fruit.

William B. Duryee, representing the National Potato Council, said that insecticides are essential for production of fresh fruits and vegetables. He also recommended that BHC not be used in controlling wireworms because of the off-flavor which it causes in the tuber.

The last witness of the week was Ernest Halbleib, representing the United Farmers of America. His testimony was the first given at the hearings which opposed the use of chemicals in fruit and vegetable production. It was his hypothesis that cultural farming which adds humus to the soil will accomplish all of the desired ends of chemical farming and without danger to the consumer.

The hearings recessed until April 24, 1950, at which time they will resume with testimony by representatives of the chemical industry and some interested societies.

Marketing Quotas Proposed

(Continued from page 143)

tary of Agriculture "to make available through loans, purchases, or other operations price support to producers for any nonbasic agricultural commodity . . . at a level not in excess of 90 percent of the parity price for the commodity."

The Pace bill also would amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 by authorizing the issuance of marketing orders on any and all fruits and vegetables.

No action on H. R. 7955 has been scheduled by the House Committee on Agriculture, but it is possible that the Committee may begin consideration of the bill following the end of the House recess on April 18.

The marketing orders law also would be amended under terms of S. 3274, introduced on behalf of Senator Pepper (Fla.) by Senator Murray (Mont.). The newest Pepper bill would authorize the issuance of marketing orders prohibiting the marketing of any commodity at a price below the "average cost of harvesting and packing the commodity"—as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture—and other costs unexpectedly incurred.

STATISTICS

1949 Pack of Canned Meat

A summary of the 1949 pack of canned meat processed in "official establishments," as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is shown below:

Canned Meat and Meat Products Packed by Official Establishments During 1949

	Slicing and Institutional sizes (3 lbs. and over)	Consumer Packages or Shelf Sizes (under 3 lbs.)	1949 Total All Sizes
—(in thousands of pounds)—			
Luncheon meat...	196,060	117,099	313,659
Canned hams.....	133,211	3,679	136,890
Corned beef hash....	6,429	60,661	67,090
Chili con carne.....	6,503	81,565	88,068
Vienna sausage.....	2,481	55,410	57,891
Potted and deviled meat products...	227	34,503	34,730
Deviled ham.....	182	7,186	7,368
Tamales.....	919	27,718	28,637
Sliced dried beef....	306	5,206	5,512
Liver products.....	6	3,825	3,831
Meat stews.....	1,009	30,354	31,363
Spaghetti meat products.....	621	35,132	35,753
Tongue.....	1,619	4,964	6,583
Vinegar pickled products.....	11,220	10,366	30,586
All other products containing 30% or more meat....	9,557	84,148	93,705
All other products containing less than 30% meat....	3,008	99,210	102,218
Total all products.	374,261	670,626	1,044,887

1949 Pack of Canned Tuna

The 1949 pack of canned tuna is reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service at 7,200,000 cases—a new record high for the fifth successive year. The 1949 pack compares with the 1948 pack of 7,038,000 cases and the 1947 pack of 5,938,000 cases.

In addition to the large pack for 1949, approximately 600,000 cases of canned tuna were imported, making a total of 7,800,000 cases available for American consumption, FWS reports.

The U. S. tuna pack averaged 2,947,000 cases during the 1935-39 period and 3,400,000 cases during the war years, 1940-45.

Poultry Canned in February

The quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during February totaled 11,293,000 pounds, it is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This compares with the 9,564,000 used in February of 1949.

Invitations for Bids

Quartermaster Purchasing Office—111 East 16th Street, New York 3, N. Y.; 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Ill.; Oakland Army Base, Oakland 14, Calif.

Veterans Administration—Procurement Division, Veterans Administration, Wash. 25, D. C.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act will apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is \$10,000 or over.

The Veterans Administration has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

CANNED SLICED APPLES (Standard)—3,750 dozen No. 10 cans, f.o.b. destination. Bids due under Invitation No. 322-S by April 20.

CANNED PLUMS (Choice)—1,200 dozen No. 10 cans, f.o.b. destination. Bids due under invitation No. 223-S by April 20.

CANNED MINCEMEAT (Fancy)—1,750 dozen No. 10 cans, f.o.b. destination. Bids due under invitation No. 224-S by April 24.

PUBLICATION

Shipping Containers

A description of the numerous types and sizes of containers commonly used for shipping fresh fruits and vegetables is provided in a new Farmer's Bulletin issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Entitled "Containers in Common Use for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables," Farmer's Bulletin No. 2013, the bulletin is available from the Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

FOREIGN TRADE

Preserver Exhibition in Italy

The International Preserved Food and Packing Exhibition will be held at Parma, Italy, this year on September 8-25. Included in the displays will be preserved fruits and vegetables, meat products, and machinery and supplies.

Tolerance Hearings Recess

(Concluded from page 143)

INFORMATION LETTER, and separate reprints of each of these summaries are available. It is suggested that technical field and laboratory staffs of canners obtain sets of these reprints for future reference. They are available from the Raw Products Bureau at N.C.A. headquarters in Washington, or from the Western Branch Laboratory in San Francisco.

PRICE SUPPORTS

Purchase Program for Cabbage

"In order to encourage the domestic consumption of cabbage by diverting it from the normal channels of trade," the Production and Marketing Administration announces, "cabbage will be purchased during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, in instances where surpluses exist or appear to be developing, and subject to limitations imposed by the capacity of available outlets to utilize supplies without waste and by the amount of funds available for such purchases. Generally, purchases will be made only in areas where acreage has not been unduly expanded without regard to available facilities and outlets. Grades and other specifications and purchase prices will be contained in purchase announcements which will be issued to cover particular purchase operations. Information as to such purchase operations may be obtained by writing to the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C."

PERSONNEL

Utah Cannery Association

The Utah Cannery Association recently elected the following officers for 1950:

President—Joseph F. Barker, Utah Canning Co., Ogden; vice president—Wesley Jense, Pleasant Grove Canning Co., Pleasant Grove; secretary-treasurer—Harvey F. Cahill, Ogden (reelected).

New Association Members

The following firms have been admitted into membership in the Association since March 18, 1950:

KING FISHERIES, 5514½ 11th Ave., N. E., Seattle 5, Wash. Products—Clams, crabmeat, salmon. Officer—W. C. King, owner.

C & S PACKING CO., P. O. Box 172, Cordova, Alaska. Products—Crabmeat, clams. Officer—A. F. Cole, owner.

PACIFIC PEARL OF ALASKA, INC., 701 Central Building, Seattle 4, Wash. Products—Clams, crabmeat, salmon, shrimp. Officers—Ivar Wendt, president; Roy Furford, vice president.

LEVELOCK PACKING CO., Levelock, Alaska. Product—Salmon. Officer—Herman Herrmann, owner.

GRAYS HARBOR CRAB COMPANY, P. O. Box 85, Aberdeen, Wash. Product—Crabs. Officers—J. A. Williams and Richard Graham, partners.

RAW PRODUCTS

Potato Handling and Storage

Recent findings in improved methods of handling, storing, and using potatoes are rounded up in a digest (Bibliographical Bulletin No. 11) published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Entitled "Handling, Storage, Transportation, and Utilization of Potatoes," it may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. The price is 35 cents.

The 163-page review of literature on the subject (most of it between 1938 and 1948) covers findings on all operations in potato handling. It starts with the digging and includes cooking quality, processing, and by-products. There is also information on consumer and market preferences, transit and storage diseases, and damage by insects and nematodes (round worms).

USDA Entomologists Forecast Serious Trouble from Insects

Grasshoppers, boll weevils, and European corn borers may cause U. S. farmers serious trouble in 1950, it has been forecast by entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Weather conditions prevailing through the winter have been favorable to the insects in many areas and the three named may develop into outbreak status this summer.

Huge numbers of grasshopper eggs were found in many places during surveys made last fall by entomologists of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Just how serious grasshopper outbreaks will be depends primarily on weather conditions at hatching time, and the availability of green food for the tiny hoppers as they leave the egg beds. Greatest threats of grasshoppers appear to be in Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming. But farmers from Texas to Canada and west to California may be forced to fight hoppers in many places.

Boll weevils went into hibernation in great numbers last fall. The mild winter enabled many of them to overwinter successfully, and probably they will enter 1950 cotton fields in record numbers. More than 470 million dollars were lost by cotton farmers to the boll weevil and other pests in 1949, according to estimates of the National Cotton Council. The pests could cost even more this summer if weather

conditions remain favorable for their development and the farmers fail to put up an adequate fight against them.

More European corn borers are overwintering now in the fields of the corn belt than ever before. Last year, this insect caused crop losses estimated at 350 million dollars. The pest will do even more damage in 1950 if weather is favorable to the borers at egg-laying and hatching time.

New Cranberry Varieties Bred by Experiment Stations

Three new cranberry varieties—Stevens, Wilcox, and Beckwith—the first ever to have resulted from fruit breeding work—have been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Experiment Station, and the Massachusetts Experiment Station.

All of the new varieties are productive and have larger berries than the principal commercial varieties of New Jersey and Massachusetts. The Wilcox shows high resistance to feeding by leafhopper, the insect that spreads the false blossom virus. Berries of the Stevens have unusually good gloss and color and are resistant to breakdown. Its vigorous vines do especially well on thin bogs. It has been especially promising in Wisconsin. Berries of the Beckwith are borne high on long uprights. This makes them easy to harvest by scooping. Beckwith

rated highest in flavor tests of sauce made from the new and from well-known varieties.

The Wilcox ripens just after Labor Day, the Stevens about three weeks later, and the Beckwith early in October.

The new berries come from crosses made about 20 years ago by H. F. Bain and H. F. Bergman of USDA. The original selections were made from 1938 to 1940 by Mr. Bain and the late R. B. Wilcox with the help of growers and associates. The new berries have been named for plant scientists whose studies have contributed to the improvement of the cranberry crop—Mr. Wilcox, for many years in charge of USDA research in cranberries and blueberries at Pemberton, N. J.; the late Neil Stevens, former head of the botany department at the University of Illinois and at one time in charge of the berry disease research of USDA; and the late Charles S. Beckwith, entomologist of the New Jersey Experiment Station, who cooperated in the early breeding work.

The three new varieties were selected from about 1,800 seedlings on the basis of tests, chiefly in New Jersey. Additional tests have been started in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Washington. No planting material is available for distribution from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey or Massachusetts Experiment Stations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Publicity		Statistics	
Canning industry's beginnings to be dramatized on NBC network May 2.....	143	1949 pack of canned meat.....	145
Congress		1949 pack of canned tuna.....	145
Marketing quotas proposed for all farm commodities.....	143	Poultry canned in February.....	145
Sanitation		Publication	
Food plant sanitation courses scheduled by N.C.A.....	143	Shipping containers.....	145
Procurement		Foreign Trade	
School lunch program expands during first half of 1949.....	143	Preserver exhibition in Italy....	145
Invitations for bids.....	145	Price Supports	
Insecticides		Purchase program for cabbage..	145
Tolerance hearings recess; sets of summaries available.....	143	Personnel	
Food and Drug pesticide tolerance hearings.....	144	Utah Cannery Association.....	145
		New association members.....	145
		Raw Products	
		USDA entomologists forecast serious trouble from insects.....	146
		New cranberry varieties bred by experiment stations.....	146
		Potato handling and storage.....	146